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PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE

INTRODUCTION 6

VISION AND MISSION 10

PEOPLE 12

The Program Team 12

The Project Team 18

The Board Of Trustees 20

SECTORS 24

Public Administration, Public Management And Public Policies 24

European And International Policies 26

Democracy And The Rule Of Law 30

Economy 32

Environment And Green Economy 34

Security 36

Media 38

Culture 40

Visual communication 42

PROJECTS 44

OFFICES 52

INTRODUCTION

Public Policy Institute is established upon the idea that the whole Western Balkans region is a future part of a joint European space liberated of internal borders.

The Public Policy Institute was established as a regional think tank organisation, covering the former Yugoslavia territory. The basic idea was to offer scientific and professional solutions to the challenges of modern public policies. The single common political solution that associates all official policies in the Western Balkans is the integration into the European Union. Therefore we decided to identify the common problems of the entire Western Balkans from the perspectives of cooperation with the largest individual institutional partner, the EU. In this respect, the problems of the EU itself had been taken into consideration, as well.

After the large, great, historical surge of accession of the Eastern European countries in 2004 and 2007, the European integration process became noticeably slower. In 2013 Croatia became the only country that succeeded to join the EU in the interim. In the meanwhile, we witnessed the beginning of the global economic crisis that instigated Euro-scepticism and somewhat restrained economic and political incentives to the acceding countries, as well as negotiation processes. Newly formed nationalisms in the very EU and its peripheries revealed new political and economic frustrations to which it was difficult to offer instant solutions and integral answers. Doubts were raised regarding the ability of the European administration to transform itself from a trade community into unique, consistent and plausible participant in international relations and global security.

Public Policy Institute was established upon the following ideas:

1. that the whole Western Balkans region is a future part of a joint European space liberated from internal borders;
2. that the EU remains the most secure and the only acceptable and capable political community that offers institutional warranties to realise the political, economic and individual freedoms that lay at the very foundations of European integration;
3. that promotion and institutional realisation of personal, national, political and economic freedoms are primary interests of the Western Balkans and the former Yugoslav states particularly.

Believing that only a complete European integration of the Western Balkans will provide a guarantee of safety and prosperity of the entire post-Yugoslav territory, Public Policy Institute has taken a position of regional approach and decided to develop as one of the first post-Yugoslav and trans-national political organisations.

Persistent post-conflict and transition problems of the former Yugoslavia are caused by institutional weakness, corruption, populism and lack of new ideas, personalities and political or social movements. A disconcerting void has also appeared, one that is reflected in mutual relationships, activity, communication, as well as in conflicts of political parties, NGO sector, unions and the media.

Science and education have been rejected as a disruptive factor in the process of creating and implementing public policies. Scientific and academic communities often reject contemporary challenges of the free market, media pluralism or general political, social and cultural responsibilities. During the latest transition period, politicians, NGO activists and the media have managed to disqualify universities, institutes, intellectuals and artists who used to be the binding tissue and ethical correctors of the former Yugoslav community. The right of the public to demand application of the European laws, principles and rules was gradually abolished. This refers to the values that had survived within the EU despite all the blows delivered by economic crises or by political disputes.

In this post-conflict and transition turmoil, the questions of the past and the future, such as the responsibility and actions taken during the violent disintegration of Yugoslavia, have been marginalised or tabooed. The same applies to the question of the future common political and security framework for the Western Balkans. There is also an apparent weakness of the Hague Tribunal to confront aggressive defences of those who are suspected of committing the most heinous crimes, including elimination of witnesses and media manipulation in their respective societies. Social capacities are insufficiently developed, mainly due to the corruption of the mainstream NGO sector, incapable to win over the general public in favour of accepting the values of human rights or dealing with the recent past. The NATO intervention in 1999 has brought about severe traumas. The security confusion of the Western Balkans threatens to cause new ethnic and religious conflicts and spread of instability.

Irrespective of political and ideological beliefs, doubts are being openly stated regarding the level of certainty with respect to the ability of the new leaders to restore political, economic and cultural respectability of the former Yugoslav states, including creation of open and free societies and abolition of mutual borders. The region is still thwarted within the existing network of political parties, the NGO sector and the media. Political establishment is firmly tied to the transition winners, and also with populist orientated voters, dependent of the influence of the oligarchs and the remains of the security services that evade civilian control. This is also why the Public Policy Institute is willing to offer its expertise and mediation, being an organisation open to every progressive administration and aware of the problems, challenges and possible solutions.

Facing both the weaknesses of the party policies and the NGO sector implausibility, facing the media who are spreading fabricated affairs, planting conspiracy theories and replenishing the vocabulary of national, religious and cultural intolerance, Public Policy Institute will also state clear political stands which will be derived from both specific political experience of its founders and members, and from a supportive attitude in relation to the reformist policies. PPI specially emphasises the need of its members and the sections, whether they are representing their personal opinion or expertise, to always advocate the principles of basic human rights and freedoms. We also highlight the need to civilise the media, gradually delete regional borders, as well as the need to promote new institutions and pathways of cultural emancipation and reaffirmation of the former Yugoslav states.

Public Policy Institute represents a link between academic circles, politics, media and civil sector.

We are convinced that precise and credible analyses of the condition in the region already exist. These analysis indicate the causes of slow political changes and economic and technological growth. The relative backwardness is explained by the unfavourable economic conjuncture and social stratification. The cultural collapse is one of few, but also extremely harmful, cohesion factors of the post-Yugoslav area as a whole. We believe that the politics of destruction and "the *lack of culture* culture" leads to new isolation, decrease of freedom and defrosting of conflicts. History confirms that economic conjuncture and mentality are the ones to change most slowly. Unfavourable economic conjuncture also affects the closest neighbourhoods in Central and Eastern Europe or in the Eastern Mediterranean. A mentality that traditionally opposes modernisation, or more specifically rationalism, enlightenment, urbanisation or economic liberalization, is a result of unsuccessful and ineffective foreign rule and of persistent dominance of rural traditions, political religion and communism. Moreover, during transition, civil society has also raised doubts regarding market competition or foreign investments. The rule of law is failing in imposing to the clientelistic state, autarchic economy or collectivist culture. Authoritarian politics, corruption and failed economies instigate pessimism and loss of trust in institutions and the promotion of any clear political idea that might include individual initiative, efforts, renunciation and responsibility.

We are convinced that the public deception and manipulative interpretations of the past and tradition, fuelled by scholars, media or church, lead to isolation and new conflicts with neighbours and within the society. Rational examination of the past, unburdened by divine interventionism or ethical imperative constructions, has capacitated the European culture to offer and sometimes impose the rest of the world the values of the modern culture and basic freedom. Our past is so painful, almost devoid of long-term success stories, and therefore subject to manipulations. Inventing identities and traditions raises hostility towards every rational and efficient state or social community. These manipulations contribute to the absence of a clear affiliation in international politics, integrations and relationships with neighbouring countries as well.

Absence of plausible and credible organisations and political candidates is merely a symptom of the contemporary deceleration in political and economic development, even comparing to the last decades of the communist period. Deficit of dynamic and socially interactive policies feeds both expectations or disillusion among the Western Balkans in regard to the EU partnership or integration. The strategic vacuum in the Western Balkans threaten the general EU credibility in domains of foreign and security, and indicate the need for mutual responsibility.

The Public Policy Institute, in partnership with the EU and national institutions of the state or civil society, intends to actively and publicly promote ideas and expertise that will inspire and encourage changes within the political circles or influence the appearance of new alternatives:

1. **OFFERING a new transition model that would additionally capitalise "the middle class", where transition hasn't been completed or is in the process of partial revision**
2. **INCITING public optimism, confidence in our own creative power, individualism, political and business initiative**
3. **PINPOINTING successful transition examples in Eastern Europe**
4. **WORKING on the establishment of a shared economic and cultural space with neighbouring former Yugoslav republics**
5. **MONITORING of value preferences regarding new political participants and the future generations of political candidates**

MISSION

Public Policy Institute reminds of respectable knowledge and experience of experts and scientific institutions in the territory of former Yugoslavia. PPI was partially founded by professors of Belgrade University, the single relevant Serbian institution that was able to advance its scientific, professional and research capacities during the most difficult years of disintegration, conflicts and transition. Teaming up of scientists from the entire former Yugoslavia is a message about the need for association in creating new perspectives of overall development.

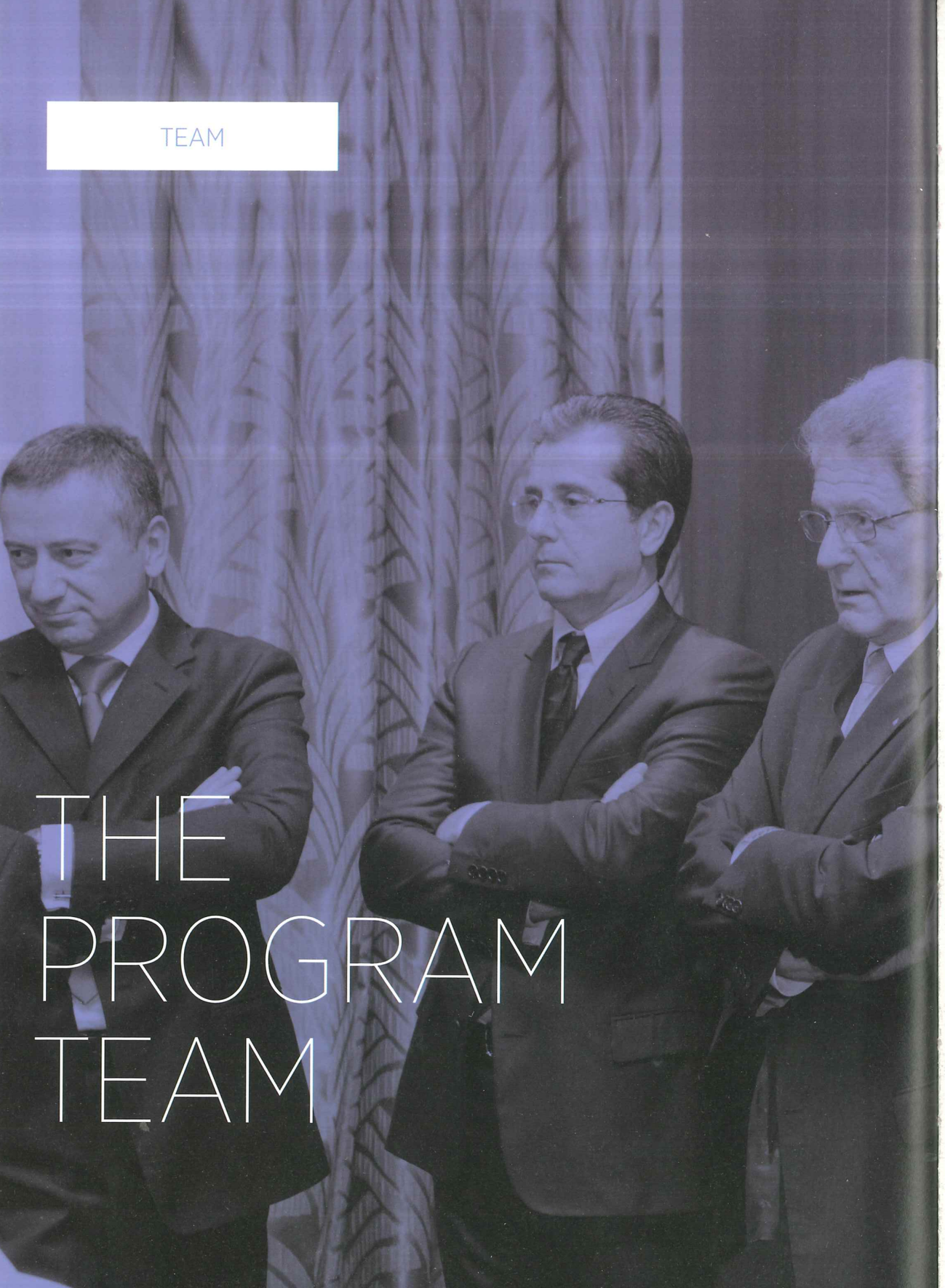
This is why PPI believes that bringing together the experts is of an exceptional importance in a domain of scientific and professional support to public policies, to their designing and sometimes to their management. Our vision is first and foremost aimed at areas of devising political agendas, of European and trans-Atlantic challenges, of security, climate change and environment, human and minority rights, public administration, diplomacy, civil sector and professionalization of the media, science and culture.

VISION

The main purpose of Public Policy Institute is to offer its outstanding services in connecting the sectors of state administration, non-governmental organisations and the media.

As a result of several years' long communication with the representatives of international organisations, our basic motive has become the founders' common stand that the region needs an organisation that will gather politically neutral experts in different areas. Combination of expertise and political experience can contribute to the establishment of the mechanisms needed for the application of standards that the governments in the region adopt in the process of alignment of national legislation to the European Union legislations. Reintegration of the Western Balkan states into the international community should be a political, economic and social priority of the entire region. Borders that are still present and separate the former Yugoslav republics are the basic obstacle to a guided and coordinated process of integration of all Western Balkan states. The goal of PPI is to implement projects which are important for political progress and sustainable growth, to organise public debates, to identify potential threats to social progress and to predict future problems.

PPI represents a link between academic circles, politics, the media and the civil sector. PPI will continue to develop its network of associates comprised of experts from various academic institutions and numerous participants in social and political life.



TEAM

THE PROGRAM TEAM

Teaming up of experts, officials and scientists from the entire former Yugoslavia is a message about the need for association in creating new perspectives of overall development.

Vladimir Popović, Director

Graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Belgrade. In the late '80s, he became the first CEO of the Yugoslavian subsidiary of a multinational chain of advertising agencies *Ogilvy & Mather*. With the introduction of the multi-party system in Serbia, Popović took up an active role in the political life of the opposition, creating marketing campaigns for the majority of the opposition parties of the time. In 1994, he started an ongoing cooperation with the Democratic Party and its the then President, Zoran Đinđić. He was the manager of all election campaigns the Democratic Party took part in, including the election campaign of the DOS coalition in 2000. After the democratic changes, Popović entered the Government and participated in the forming of the Prime Minister's cabinet, subsequently taking over the tasks of establishing and running of the Bureau for Communications of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. He remained in this position till mid-2003 when he left the Government and went back to the advertising business and to running his own company. From 2004 onwards, he continued to actively help the civil sector in Serbia.

Professor Stevan Lilić, President of the Management Board in Podgorica

Graduated in 1972 as the valedictorian from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade. In 1979/80 he performed his scientific research work for his doctor's dissertation at *Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California* (Berkley) and *Columbia University Law School* (New York). In 1975 he was elected Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade and became Full Professor in 1997. He published over 300 scientific works, articles and monographs. He is a founder and active member of various NGOs that deal with protection of human rights (*Centre for Antiwar Action, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia, Committee for Protection of University Liberties, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights*, etc). He served as MP in the National Assembly of Serbia (2001-2003).

Professor Mijat Damjanović, President of the Management Board in Belgrade

All of his academic titles he acquired at the University of Belgrade: Bachelor of Law in 1964, Master of Science in 1971 and PhD in Political Sciences in 1975. He started his professional career at the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade, Centre for Public Opinion Research (1965-1975). From 1975 to 2005, he was employed at the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Belgrade, where in 1987 he obtained the highest academic rank – Full Professor. From 2002 to 2004 he worked as Head of the Department for Political Sciences, and Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences. Since 2006, he has been working at the Faculty for Public Administration of MEGATREND University, with honorary title of Professor Emeritus.

Professor Nikola Samardžić

Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University in Belgrade. He teaches Early Modern and Modern history, and the specialist US studies courses, in particular the History of Jazz. He was a Fulbright scholar with the New York University in 2003. He was researching in Spain, Italy, France and the US, and published the following books: *France and Turkey 1687-1691*, *Charles V*, *History of Spain*, *Identity of Spain*, *The Second Twentieth Century*, lauched a *Cultural History of Belgrade* with a volume *Eighteenth Century*, and was coeditor of *The Peace of Passarowitz, 1718* collection (Purdue U.P.). He founded the New Balkan Institute and Scientific Society for the History of Health Culture, and is editor-in chief of the scientific magazines Belgrade Historical Review, LimesPlus, and Acta Historiae Medicinae. He was a member of the Democratic Party from 1995 and the Liberal Democratic Party 1995-2008.

Professor Anđelka Mihajlov

Chemical engineer, PhD in Technical Sciences. She has more than 300 scientific references and teaches at universities worldwide. Currently, she works as a professor of Environment, Science and Engineering at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad. She was the first dean of the Faculty of Environmental Governance and Corporate Sustainability at EDUCONS University. Member of the National Committee for co-operation with UNESCO, Chair of MAB and Climate Change sub-Committee and member of Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development of Serbian Chamber of Commerce. She is engaged in supporting EU environmental *acquis* in new EU Member States and candidate countries, especially in the following areas: waste management, horizontal environment EC legislation, climate change, IPPC and MEAs. As the Minister for The Protection of Natural Resources and Environment in the Government of Serbia, from 2001 to 2004 she had a prominent role in implementing the Reform Agenda of Serbia in the Environment Sector. In 2006 she received an acknowledgement form UNEP as a Woman Environmental Leader of the Western Balkans.

Gordana Lazarević

Graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Belgrade. From 2001 to 2010 she served as Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Finance. She managed the Sector for Development Assistance and EU Funds, and was responsible for the coordination of the work of line ministries and other public institutions in the preparation of programmes and projects which would be financed from foreign donor funds. Being the head of the Department for Cooperation with Multilateral and Regional Financial Organisations at the Federal Ministry of Finance, she was a member of the Negotiations Team of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for negotiations with creditors from Paris and London club, World Bank, EIB and for recovery of relations with EBRD. She worked in the cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister of the federal government. Today, she is working as an individual consultant in Serbia and abroad.

Marko Kljajević

Graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 1987. In 1988 he started his career as a trainee in Lawyers' Chamber of Belgrade, and in 1989 he became a judge trainee in the Fifth Municipal Court in Belgrade. He passed the bar exam with merit, and in 1994 he was appointed judge of the Fifth Municipal Court in Belgrade. In 2001, he was appointed judge of the District Court in Belgrade. As the Chairman of the Court Council, from the very beginning in 2003 he conducted the trial for the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, but due to systemic obstructions of the process, he withdrew in 2006. Since November 2006, he has been a member of the Lawyers' Chamber of Belgrade.

Ante Bošković

In 1978 graduated from the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. He started his professional career as judge trainee at the First Municipal Court in Belgrade and as a professional associate at the District Court in Belgrade. He was appointed judge in 1983. From 1990 to 2000 he worked as a lawyer, and then became the President Judge of the Municipal Court in Obrenovac. From 2003 to 2005 he was the President Judge of the Fourth Municipal Court in Belgrade. Since 2005 to date he has been working as a lawyer in Belgrade.

Professor Nada Kovačević

In 1971 she graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade. She is a specialist of internal medicine, sub-specialist of gastroenterology and ultrasound sub-specialist, Master and Doctor of Medical Science. She spent her working life at the clinics of the Serbian Clinical Centre. Since 1982, when she became a teaching assistant at the Department for Internal Medicine, until her retirement (2012), she worked at the Faculty of Medicine, where in 1999 she became a Full Professor. For more than 11 years she worked as Head of the Department of Internal Medicine, being the only woman holding this position ever since the foundation of the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade. She has published over 300 professional and scientific papers and was co-author of 18 textbooks and monographs. From 2001 to 2005 (two mandates), she was the President of Gastroenterological Section of the Serbian Doctor's Society (first woman to perform this function).

Professor Nikola Šuica

Completed his graduate and post-graduate studies at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philosophy – Department of Art History. He obtained his PhD degree at the University of Arts in Belgrade, addressing interdisciplinary topics ranging from visual arts, photography and film studies. He has been employed as an Associate professor and Head of the Department for Theoretical Subjects at the Faculty of Visual Arts at the University of Arts in Belgrade. He has been in charge of courses at master's and doctoral studies, as well as mentorships at interdisciplinary studies at the University of Arts in Belgrade. His study research texts in compendia and monographs, essays, texts and interviews, as well as translations from English were published in art and culture periodicals and magazines, weekly and daily press in Belgrade and Serbia, Zagreb and Ljubljana.

Pavle Farčić

MA from Belgrade Faculty of Applied Arts, major Graphic Design, in 2002. He has significant work experience in the creative industry, art direction, digital communication, multimedia production and art. Founder and creative director of Hominid Advertising, a branding and design studio specialized in brand strategy and identity development, with reputable client list in commercial, education and art space in Serbia and Spain. Creative director of Guitar Art Festival in Belgrade for over 14 years. Co-founder and deputy General Manager of Resonate festival, a platform for networking, knowledge exchange and exhibiting, gathering renowned global artists for an advanced discussion and collaboration related to the role of digital technology in art and culture. Member of the Management board of the Belgrade Museum of Contemporary Art 2013-2014. Member of the Art Directors' Club since 2002, and association Design Serbia since 2008.

Čedomir Petrović

Drama artist, graduated in 1973 with the highest grades from the Academy for Theatre, Film, Radio and Television in Belgrade (current Faculty of Drama Arts) and completed post-graduate studies majoring in Diction. Within the period 1977-1979 he worked as a teaching assistant to the professor Branivoj Đorđević on Diction course, at the Faculty of Drama Arts in Belgrade. In 1976 he became one of the founders of a popular alternative theatre called "Pod razno", within the Student Cultural Centre. In this theatre, he performed leading roles in the plays such as "Goodnight Fred" and "S.O.S", which were performed for many years all around former Yugoslavia. He wrote many articles and feuilletons in the field of politics, sociology and culture that were published in Belgrade weekly and daily press.